

OFFICE OF THRIFT SUPERVISION

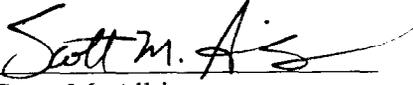
**APPROVAL OF A STOCK REPURCHASE APPLICATION
BY A MID-TIER HOLDING COMPANY**

Order No.: 2000-46
Date: May 23, 2000

Gaston Federal Bancorp, Inc., Gastonia, North Carolina, has applied, pursuant to 12 C.F.R. § 575.1(b), for a waiver of 12 C.F.R. § 575.11(c), to repurchase up to five percent or 92,539 shares of its stock from shareholders other than Gaston Federal Holdings, MHC.

Section 575.1(b) provides that the Office of Thrift Supervision (“OTS”) may waive provisions of the OTS mutual holding company regulations for good cause. The OTS has considered the application, and, for the reasons set forth in the Southeast Regional Office’s digest, a legal opinion from the Business Transactions Division, and a summary from the Office of Examination and Supervision, has determined that good cause exists to waive 12 C.F.R. § 575.11(c) to the extent proposed in the application. Accordingly, the application is hereby approved.

By order of the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision, or her designee, effective
May 23, 2000.


Scott M. Albinson
Managing Director
Office of Supervision